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03/07/00**UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL FORM****BOX PATENT APPLICATION**
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Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of

Inventor: Gopinathan K. Menon

For: METHOD OF TREATING SKIN CONDITIONS

Enclosed are:

XXX Specification (24 pps) including: Description (18 pps); Claims (5 pps); Abstract (1pp);XXX 2 sheets of drawings;XXX Declaration and Power of Attorney;XXX An assignment of the invention to: Avon Products, Inc. including \$40.00 recordation fee and Assignment Recordation Form Cover Sheet;

_____ Information Disclosure Statement (with copies of patent);

_____ Form - PTO-1449;

_____ Verified Statement Claiming Small Entity Status; and

_____ Priority of Provisional Patent Application Serial No. _____, filed on _____, in _____ is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119.

The Filing Fee is calculated below.

CLAIMS AS FILED				
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Independent Claims	4 - 3 =	1	1 x \$78.00	\$78.00
Multiple Dependent Claim Fee		x \$270.00 = \$0.00		
TOTAL FILING FEE				\$768.00

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Address all future communications to:

Charles N.J. Ruggiero, Esq.
Ohlandt , Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle
One Landmark Square, 9th Floor
Stamford, Connecticut 06901-2682
U.S.A.

March 7, 2000
Date of Signature

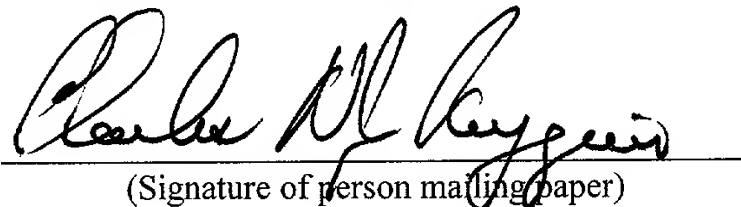


Charles N.J. Ruggiero, Esq.
Registration No. 28,468
Attorney for Applicant
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.
One Landmark Square, 9th Floor
Stamford, CT. 06901-2682
Tel (203) 327-4500
Fax (203) 327-6401

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METHOD OF TREATING SKIN CONDITIONS**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**1. Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to topical compositions and methods useful to prevent, ameliorate or treat skin and other conditions associated with upregulation of genes in skin cells that respond to activation of Peroxisome Proliferator Activated Receptors (hereinafter "PPAR"), which are proteinaceous. More particularly, the present invention relates to topical compositions and methods useful to prevent, ameliorate or treat conditions, such as acne and/or cellulite, associated with upregulation of PPAR.

2. Description of the Related Art

10 Although the role of PPAR in metabolic pathways is still under investigation, it is known that PPAR receptors have a fundamental role in regulating energy balance, particularly via glucose and lipid metabolism. In addition, it is known that
20 there is not a single PPAR but, instead, a family, or isoforms, of PPAR: PPARalpha, PPARGamma and PPARbeta/sigma.

U.S. Patent No. 6,004,741 to Rosenfield discusses PPAR in sebocyte development, and suggests that PPAR, particularly PPARgamma, may be useful with respect to conditions associated with increased sebum production, such as *acne vulgaris*. In addition, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,994,554 to Kliewer et al.; 5,939,442 to Evans et al.; and 5,981,586 to Pershadsingh, disclose methods to either identify compounds that interact with or modify PPARgamma mediated pathways.

It has been reported that feeding perilla oil to rats reduces visceral adipose tissue by down-regulating adipose cell/tissue differentiation. Okuno et al. J. Nutr. 127: 1752 - 1757 (1997). Another study in which Japanese Quails were fed perilla oil demonstrated a reduction in plasma lipid levels and foam cells in the aorta. Reducing both plasma lipid levels and aortic foam cells reduces atherosclerosis.

As can be understood by those in the art, compositions that require systemic administration are particularly undesired when treating skin conditions. This is simply because systemic administration provides greater opportunity for an active to interact at receptor sites away from the target site. Non-target receptor activity results in undesired side effects.

U.S. Patent No. 5,312,834 to Yeo teaches compositions for the treatment of acne. The Yeo patent exemplifies topical compositions having both eicosapentaenoic acid and alpha-linolenic acid, preferably in a weight ratio of 1:0.1 to 20, respectively. Although Yeo teaches that perilla oil contains alpha-linolenic acid and fish oil contains eicosapentaenoic acid, Yeo fails to teach or suggest that perilla oil would be effective to treat acne, absent the required ratio of eicosapentaenoic acid to alpha-linolenic acid.

U.S. Patent No. 5,997,852 to Yoneda et al. provides an oral remedy for dermatitis that comprises both a zinc compound and a compound that may be either a multivalent unsaturated fatty acid or an ester thereof. Example 8 of the Yoneda et al. patent teaches a formulation comprising zinc sulfate and perilla oil as a source of linoleic acid. However, the Yoneda et al. patent fails to suggest that perilla oil is an effective topically active ingredient to prevent, ameliorate or treat acne or a non-diseased state, i.e. cosmetic, skin condition.

Thus, the prior art fails to disclose or suggest the use of topical compositions having perilla oil in an amount effective to improve the cosmetic appearance of skin by preventing, ameliorating or treating acne and/or non-disease state skin

conditions, such as cellulite, that are associated with upregulation of PPAR mediated pathways.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 It is an object of the present invention to provide a method of preventing, treating or ameliorating an affected area of the skin or hair.

10 It is another object of the present invention to provide a method of improving the aesthetic appearance of an affected, but non-disease state, area of the skin or hair that exhibits characteristics associated with conditions, such as blemishes, skin breakouts, cellulite, oily skin, oily hair, oily scalp, and combinations thereof.

15 It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a method of treating a skin or hair condition resulting from or accompanied by an upregulation of PPAR receptors.

20 The present invention, in brief summary, is topical compositions having at least one PPAR Stabilizer, and methods of administering such topical compositions to improve the condition and aesthetic appearance of such affected skin and/or hair.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 illustrates the results of Example 1; and

Figure 2 illustrates the results of Example 2.

5 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

10 A "topical composition" as used herein refers to a
composition intended to be directly applied or spread on the
surface of skin and/or hair and scalp. An "effective amount"
means an amount of a compound or a composition sufficient to
15 induce a positive change in the skin and/or hair condition. A
"physiologically acceptable vehicle" or a "suitable topical
vehicle" refers to a cosmetic, medicament or inert ingredient
that is suitable for use in direct contact with human tissues
without undue toxicity. All percentages refer to weight percent
20 based on the total weight of the topical composition.

The first principal component of the present invention is
an inhibitor of PPAR upregulation (hereinafter "PPAR
Stabilizer"). The term PPAR Stabilizer as used herein
25 encompasses all compounds that inhibit upregulation of genes
that respond to activation of PPAR proteins via agonists, but do
not effect basal levels of PPAR activity. In other words, the
PPAR Stabilizer competes with the agonist that upregulates PPAR

activity. The differentiation between upregulated and normal PPAR activity will be discussed below.

The preferred PPAR Stabilizer is perilla oil, especially perilla seed oil. Perilla seed oil contains a highly unsaturated drying oil similar to linseed oil. It is surprising and unexpected that perilla oil inhibits upregulation by PPAR agonists, as perilla oil itself contains PPAR agonists such as linolenic acid and linoleic acid. This may be attributable to perilla oil undergoing oxidation on storage due to the high content of unsaturated fatty acids. The oxidation process may alter the PPAR stimulating activity of linolenic acid and linoleic acid, causing the acids to bind to and shield the receptors, but not activate them, thereby preventing other agonists from reaching and activating the receptors.

In addition to the PPAR Stabilizer, the present invention may include a secondary component. The secondary component is selected from one or more of the following eleven groups.

1. Retinoids and Reginoids: Examples of suitable retinoids include retinol, retinoic acid, retinyl palmitate, retinyl propionate, retinyl acetate, isotretinoin as well as synthetic retinoid mimics, and derivatives of the foregoing, as

well as others that bind to RAR receptors. Retinoids include compounds, such as all-trans retinoic acid, 9-cis retinoic acid, phytanic acid and others that bind to RXR receptors.

5 2. An estrogen synthetase (aromatase) stimulating compound: Examples of such a compound include caffeine and/or derivatives thereof, and any mixture thereof. Caffeine is the more preferred of such compounds.

10 3. A compound capable of inhibiting 5 alpha-reductase activity: Examples of such a compound include linolenic acid, linoleic acid, finasteride, and mixtures thereof.

15 4. An exfoliation promoting compound: Suitable examples include alpha hydroxy acids; beta hydroxy acids; oxa acids as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,847,003 (the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference); oxa diacids as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,834,513 (the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference); mechanical exfoliation
20 compounds, such as bamboo exfoliant extract; salicylic acid; benzoyl peroxide; keto acids, such as pyruvic acid, 2-oxopropanoic acid, 2-oxobutanoic acid, and 2-oxopentanoic acid; and mixtures thereof.

The preferred exfoliation promoting compounds are lactic acid, glycolic acid, 3,6,9-trioxaundecanedioic acid, and any mixture thereof. When the present invention includes an exfoliation promoting compound, the composition comprises about 1 wt% to 20 wt%, preferably about 1 wt% to about 15 wt%, more preferably about 4 wt% to about 10 wt% acid, and most preferably about 4 wt% of the exfoliation promoting compound.

5. An ultraviolet (UV) light protecting/sunscreen agent:

Examples include organic and inorganic sunscreens, such as titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, methyl benzylidene camphor and/or its derivatives, octocrylene, anthranilates, benzophenones, butylmethoxydibenzoylmethane (avobenzene), naphtholsulphonates, benzoic acid derivatives, salicylates, cinnamic acid derivatives, terephthalylidene dicamphor sulfonic acids, and mixtures thereof. Of these, butylmethoxydibenzoylmethane, octocrylene, octylsalicylate, octylmethoxycinnamate and oxybenzone, and mixtures thereof are preferred. Butylmethoxydibenzoylmethane, oxybenzone, octylmethoxycinnamate, terephthalylidene dicamphor sulfonic acids, and mixtures thereof are most preferred. Salts, esters and other derivatives of the aforementioned sunscreen agents, which are compatible with the composition, are also contemplated in practicing the present invention. Co-formulation with an ultraviolet light

protecting/sunscreen agent is particularly desirable when the present invention is prepared for consumers who engage in outdoor activities.

5 6. Barrier function enhancing agents: Examples include
ceramides; essential fatty acids and their esters, especially
glycerides, α -hydroxy fatty acids and their esters, ω -hydroxy
fatty acids and their esters; phospholipids; cholesterol and its
esters, such as cholesteryl hemisuccinate, cholesteryl
10 phosphate; and cholestanol and its derivatives. The barrier
function enhancing agent can be added to a topical composition
either as singular molecular entities or as a complex mixture of
lipids derived from either synthetic, animal or plant sources.

15 7. Collagen enhancing agents: These agents prevent skin
sagging by promoting a net increase in collagen, either by
reducing collagen breakdown or by promoting collagen formation.
Examples of such agents include *Clara* extract (*Sophora*
augustifolia), ascorbyl-phosphoryl-cholesterol, ascorbic acid,
20 ascorbic acid derivatives, and mixtures thereof.

8. Elastase inhibitors: Examples of these inhibitors include fatty acids, such as oleic acid, perinanic acid, and Honeysuckle extract (*Lonicera caprifolium*). These inhibitors act to prevent sagging of the skin.

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9. Skin lightening agents: Examples include kojic acid, hydroquinone, licorice derivatives, ascorbic acid/ascorbic acid derivatives (e.g. magnesium ascorbyl phosphate), arbutin, bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva ursi*), *Glycyrrhiza glabra* and its derivatives, *Chlorella vulgaris* extract, and mixtures thereof.

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10. Antioxidants: Examples include compounds having phenolic hydroxy functions, such as ascorbic acid, ascorbic acid derivatives, gallic acid derivatives (e.g. propyl gallate); ferulic acid derivatives (e.g. ethyl ferulate, sodium ferulate); nitrones; N-tertbutyl-nitrone; I-(4-pyridyl-1-oxide)-N-tertbutyl-nitrone; curcumin, tetrahydrocurcumin; 6-hydroxy-2,5,7, tetramethylchroman-2-carboxylic acid; uric acid; reductic acid; tannic acid; rosmarinic acid; tocopherol and its derivatives; catechins; and mixtures thereof. Other suitable antioxidants are those that have one or more thiol functions (-SH), in either reduced or non-reduced form, such as glutathione, lipoic acid, thioglycolic acid, and other sulfhydryl compounds. The antioxidant may be inorganic, such as

sulfites, bisulfites, metabisulfite, or other inorganic salts and acids containing sulfur.

11. Skin warming agents: Examples include vanillyl
5 butylamid, capsaicin and mixtures thereof.

10 The secondary component enhances the dermatological benefits achieved by the PPAR Stabilizer. The compositions of the present invention may include at least two secondary components, with each secondary component being selected from a different group.

15 The compositions of the present invention can include other cosmetic and pharmaceutical actives and excipients. Such suitable cosmetic and pharmaceutical agents include, but are not limited to, one or more of erythromycins, tetracyclines, salicylic acids, antifungals, vitamins, anti-inflammatory agents, antimicrobials, analgesics, nitric oxide synthase inhibitors, insect repellents, self-tanning agents, surfactants, 20 moisturizers, stabilizers, preservatives, antiseptics, chelating agents, thickeners, emulsifiers, lubricants, humectants, chelating agents, skin penetration enhancers, skin cooling agents, emollients, fragrances and colorants.

Examples of suitable thickening agents include xanthan gum, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, carbomer, gum acacia, Seppigel 305 (available from Seppic Co., France), and magnesium aluminum silicate.

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The topical compositions of the present invention can include, and their utility can be enhanced by, one or more of humectants, such as ureas, pyrrolidone carboxylic acids, amino acids, sodium hyaluronates, certain polyols and other compounds with hygroscopic properties.

The general activity and mildness to skin of the present topical compositions can also be enhanced by neutralization to pH about 3.5 to about 7.0, most preferably from pH about 3.7 to about 5.6. This neutralization is preferably accomplished with one or more of ammonium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide, arginine or other amino acids, and/or triethanolamine.

20

The topical compositions of the present invention can be further formulated according to procedures known in the art to provide cosmetic compositions such as emulsions, gels, creams, lotions, ointments, pastes, sticks, cakes, pencils, essences and serums, as well as other topical cosmetic vehicles. It is also

contemplated that topical compositions of the present invention can be incorporated into delivery systems such as liposomes and topical patches, tapes, and sprays.

5 PPAR STABILIZERS

The topical compositions of the present invention are useful to improve the aesthetic appearance of skin, particularly teen skin, by any one of the following methods:

1. Reducing oil production by sebaceous glands;
2. Reducing lipid synthesis in subcutaneous adipose tissue;
3. Reducing triglyceride synthesis in subcutaneous adipose tissue;
4. Preventing and/or improving skin conditions associated with nonselective or partially selective PPAR stimulators/upregulators;
5. Preventing, ameliorating or treating acne;
6. Preventing, ameliorating or treating oily skin;
7. Preventing, ameliorating or treating oily hair;
8. Preventing, ameliorating or treating oily scalp;
9. Preventing, ameliorating or treating cellulite; and
10. Preventing, ameliorating or treating blemishes;
11. Preventing, ameliorating or treating breakouts; and
12. Improving skin texture.

The foregoing methods are achieved by topically applying an effective amount of a PPAR Stabilizer in a topical composition, to affected areas. Preferably the PPAR Stabilizer is perilla oil and, more preferably, the perilla oil is derived from the perilla seed, i.e. perilla seed oil,.

As discussed above, the discovery that perilla oil is useful as a PPAR stabilizer is an unexpected discovery in light of the prior art. It is very surprising that perilla oil as a source of linolenic acid and linoleic acid (known non-selective PPAR agonists) can prevent upregulation of PPAR, thereby providing a positive effect on acne and cellulite.

When the PPAR Stabilizer is perilla oil, the PPAR Stabilizer may be directly applied to the affected area. It is preferred that the PPAR Stabilizer is incorporated into a topical composition in an amount from about 0.01 wt% to about 10 wt%. More preferably, the PPAR Stabilizer is incorporated into the topical composition in an amount from about 1 wt% to about 8 wt%. It is most preferred that the PPAR Stabilizer is incorporated into the topical composition in an amount from about 3 wt% to about 6 wt%.

As can be understood by those in the art, the number of applications per day may vary upon the concentration of PPAR Stabilizer in the topical composition, as well as the nature of the vehicle of the topical composition, such as a gel versus a topically applied patch. When the topical composition has from about 0.01 wt% to about 10 wt% perilla oil in a cream vehicle, it is believed that such a composition should, preferably, be applied one to three times a day for acne conditions and one to two times a day for cellulite conditions. When such a topical composition is used to improve the overall aesthetic appearance of skin, it is preferred that the topical composition is applied one to two times a day.

When the condition to be treated is cellulite located on the thigh, the topical composition should be applied directly on the area. When the condition to be treated is oily scalp, the topical composition may be in the form of a shampoo or conditioner. When the condition is oily hair, the topical composition may additionally be in the form of a styling gel, hair spray or leave-in conditioner.

When the condition to be treated is acne, the composition may include: perilla oil having alpha-linolenic acid, eicosapentaenoic acid, and a suitable vehicle. However, it is preferred that the weight ratio of eicosapentaenoic acid to alpha-linolenic acid is outside the range of 1:0.1 to 20. Fish oil is a known and suitable source of eicosapentaenoic acid. When fish oil is the source of eicosapentaenoic acid, it is preferred that the fish oil includes less than 5 wt% or greater than 40 wt% eicosapentaenoic acid and the perilla oil includes less than 30 wt% or greater than 70 wt% of alpha-linolenic acid. Also, it is preferred that the volume of fish oil in the composition is either less than one-tenth the volume of perilla oil in the composition or greater than ten times the volume of perilla oil in the composition.

The following examples are illustrative of the present invention and are not intended to limit the invention.

EXAMPLE 1

Human skin cells were used to determine the effect upon PPAR upregulation by known PPAR agonists and the compound of the present invention as measured by relative PPRE ("Peroxisome Proliferator Response Element") activity. Preconfluent keratinocytes were transiently transfected with a

PPRE-luciferase reporter construct together with a beta-galactosidase. Four similar groups of cells were treated the following day for 24 hours. The first group contained a vehicle having 0.05% dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). The second group was treated with G3, a PPAR alpha agonist. The third group was treated with A4, perilla seed oil diluted 1:100 with DMSO. The fourth group was treated with G3 and A4.

As the results illustrated in Figure 1 show, the addition of a PPAR agonist (G3) nearly doubled the PPRE activity as compared to the vehicle. The addition of perilla seed oil (A4) completely prevented the upregulation of PPAR in the presence of G3.

EXAMPLE 2

As in Example 1, preconfluent keratinocytes were transfected with PPRE-luciferase and beta-galactosidase. Six similar groups of cells were treated the following day for 24 hours. The first group contained a vehicle having 0.05% DMSO. The second group was treated with A5, perilla seed oil diluted 1:100 with DMSO. The third group was treated with farnesol, a PPAR activator. The fourth group was treated with farnesol and A5. The fifth group was treated with an analog of clofibrate, a known PPAR alpha agonist. The sixth group was treated with the clofibrate analog and A5. As the results illustrated in Figure

2 show, the addition of A5 to cells treated with the PPAR agonists significantly prevents PPAR upregulation. In fact, even in the presence of such agonists, A5 maintains PPRE activity in the range exhibited by the vehicle alone.

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Various modifications and alterations to the present invention may be appreciated based on a review of this application. These changes and additions are intended to be within the scope and the spirit of the present invention as defined by the following claims.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating or ameliorating an affected area
5 of the skin or hair comprising topically applying to the
affected area a PPAR stabilizer in an amount effective to
improve the aesthetic appearance of the affected area.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the PPAR stabilizer is
10 perilla oil.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the perilla oil is
perilla seed oil.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the affected area of
15 the skin or hair is in a non-disease state and exhibits
characteristics associated with a condition selected from the
group consisting of: one or more blemishes, skin breakouts,
cellulite, oily skin, oily hair, oily scalp, and any combination
20 thereof.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the condition is
cellulite.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein the condition is oily skin.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein the condition is oily hair or oily scalp.

8. The method of claim 4, wherein the condition is one or more blemishes.

9. The method of claim 4, wherein the condition is skin break out.

10. The method of claim 4, wherein the topical composition comprises from about 0.01 wt% to about 10 wt% of the PPAR stabilizer.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the topical composition comprises from about 1 wt% to about 8 wt% of the PPAR stabilizer.

12. The method of claim 4 wherein the PPAR stabilizer is perilla oil.

13. The method of claim 5, wherein the PPAR stabilizer is perilla oil.

14. A method of treating skin affected by acne comprising:
5 preparing a topical composition including: perilla oil having alpha-linolenic acid, and a suitable vehicle, and wherein the composition is applied in the absence of from 0.1 to 20 times of an amount of alpha-linolenic acid, based upon the weight of the eicosapentaenoic acid in the composition.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the eicosapentaenoic acid is provided by fish oil having less than 5% or greater than 40% eicosapentaenoic acid, and the perilla oil comprises less than 30% or greater than 70% of alpha-linolenic acid.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the topical composition further comprises a secondary component selected from the group consisting of:

- an estrogen synthetase stimulating compound;
- 20 a 5 alpha-reductase activity inhibiting compound;
- an exfoliation-promoting compound;
- an ultraviolet (UV) light protecting/sunscreen agent;
- a retinoid;
- a rexinoid;

a barrier function enhancing agent;
a collagen enhancing agent;
an elastase inhibitor;
a skin lightening agent;
5 an antioxidant;
a skin warming agent; and
any mixtures thereof.

10 17. The method of claim 14, wherein the topical
composition further comprises a secondary component selected
from the group consisting of:

an exfoliation-promoting compound;
an ultraviolet (UV) light protecting/sunscreen agent;
a retinoid;
15 a rexinoid;
a collagen enhancing agent;
an elastase inhibitor; and
any mixtures thereof.

20 18. A method of preventing, ameliorating or treating a
condition selected from the group consisting of blemishes,
breakout, cellulite, oily skin, oily hair, oily scalp, and a
combination thereof, comprising topically applying perilla oil
to an area of skin or hair affected by the condition in an

amount effective to improve the aesthetic appearance of the condition.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the condition is
5 cellulite, and the perilla oil is applied to the affected area of skin.

20. A method of treating a skin or hair condition
resulting from or accompanied by an upregulation of PPAR
10 receptors comprising:
topically applying perilla oil to the condition,
wherein the condition is selected from the group consisting
of cellulite, oily skin, oily hair, oily scalp, and a
combination thereof.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is a method of treating skin or hair conditions, such as acne, blemishes, breakouts, cellulite, oily skin, oily hair, oily scalp, or any combination thereof, that comprises topically applying an effective amount of perilla oil to the affected area of the skin or hair. The topical application of perilla oil inhibits PPAR upregulation in skin cells, particularly PPARalpha upregulation.

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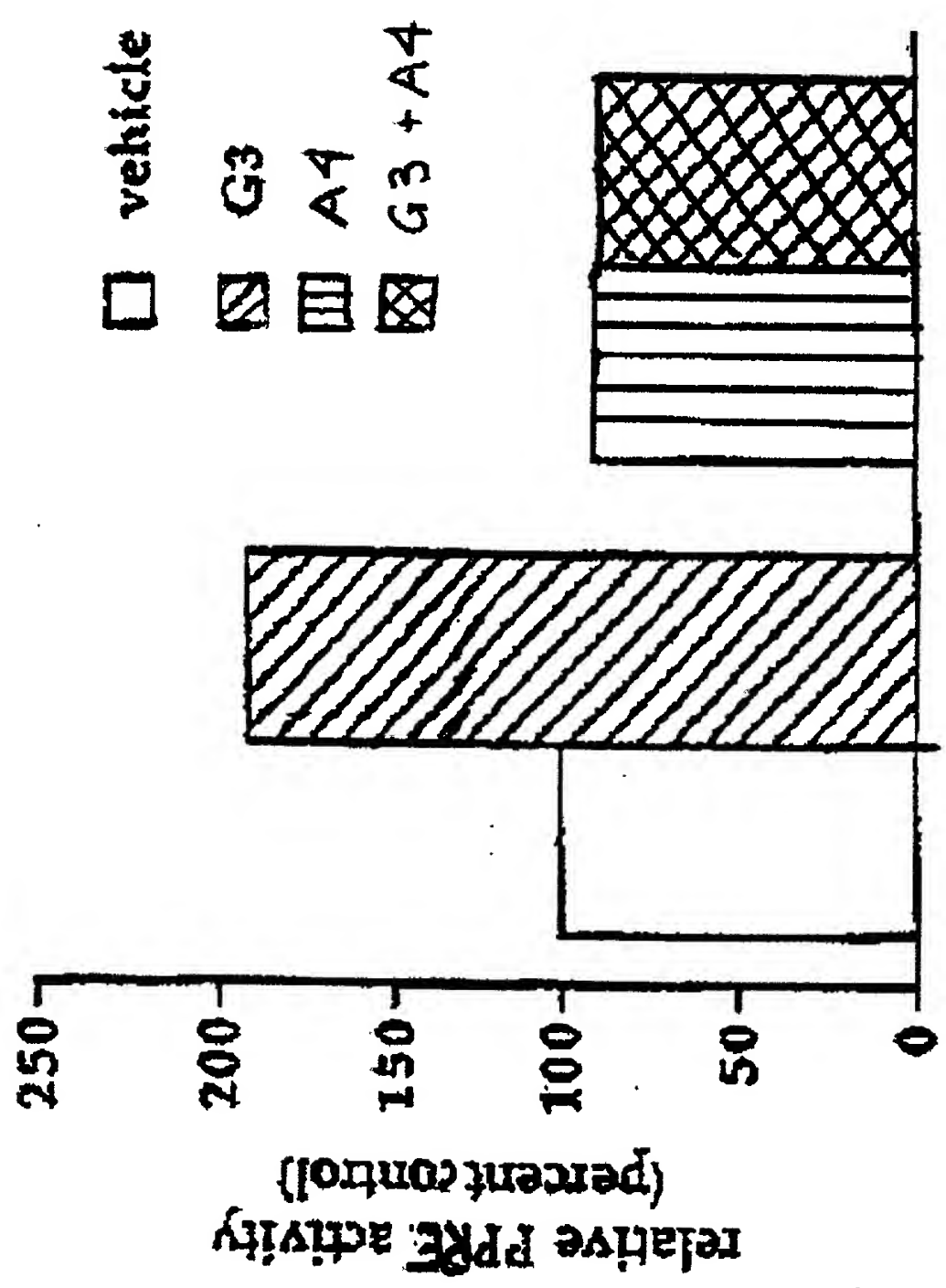


FIGURE 1

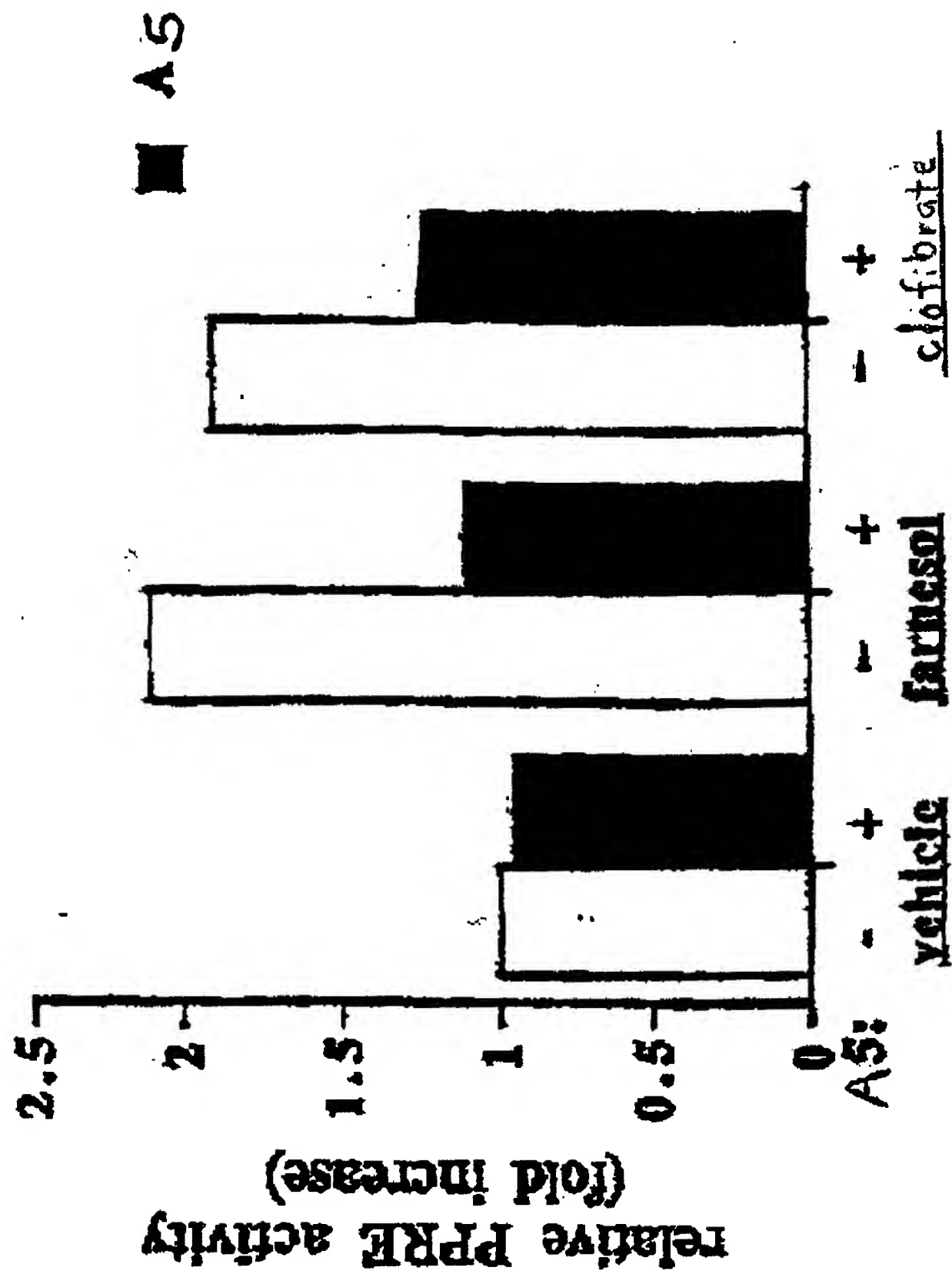


FIGURE 2

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATIONDocket No. 680.0035USU

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter that is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled.

METHOD OF TREATING SKIN CONDITIONS

the specification of which

(check one) XX is attached hereto.

_____ was filed on _____ as Application Serial No _____

and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to the examination of this application as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate(s) listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate(s) having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)Priority Claimed

_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Mon/Year Filed)	___ Yes ___ No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Mon/Year Filed)	___ Yes ___ No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Mon/Year Filed)	___ Yes ___ No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)

(patent, pend., abandon.)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)

(patent, pend., abandon.)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)

(patent, pend., abandon.)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

NAMES	REGISTRATION NUMBERS
Charles N.J. Ruggiero	28,468
Paul D. Greeley	31,019
Harry F. Smith	32,493

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:	DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:
Charles N.J. Ruggiero, Esq. Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle One Landmark Square, 9 th Floor Stamford, Connecticut 06901	Charles N.J. Ruggiero, Esq. (203) 327-4500 (203) 327-6401

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	LAST NAME MENON	FIRST NAME GOPINATHAN	MIDDLE NAME K.
RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY WAYNE	STATE OR COUNTRY NEW JERSEY	CITIZENSHIP INDIA
POST OFFICE ADDRESS	P.O. ADDRESS 9 MILLER ROAD	CITY & STATE WAYNE, NEW JERSEY	ZIP CODE 07470

Inventor's signature


Gopinathan K. Menon
Date MARCH 7th, 2000